

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 07695 080806Z

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ACTION DHA-02

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SUBJ: NEW SECURITY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION--DISCRIMINATION AND
HUMAN RIGHTS PROVISIONS

REF: MADRID 7396 (DTG 281059 SEP 76)

1. WHILE WE AS YET HAVE NO OFFICIAL REACTION TO OUR PROVISION
TO THE GOS OF THE TEXT OF THE DISCRIMINATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS
PROVISIONS OF THE NEW SECURITY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION, WE DO
NOW HAVE A SPANISH PRESS REACTION OF SORTS OUT OF NEW YORK.

2. THE CORRESPONDENT FOR THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT'S DAILY "ARRIBA,"
FELIX ORTEGA, AGAIN HITS HIS STRIDE ON THIS SUBJECT UNDER
THE TITLE, "NEW PRESSURE EFFORT ON THE TREATY." HE REPORTS
THE HUMPHREY REQUEST FOR REPORTS ON THE OBSERVATION OF HUMAN
RIGHTS IN 19 (SIC) COUNTRIES, OF WHICH THE ONLY ONE IN EUROPE IS
SPAIN, HE SUGGESTS THAT THIS APPEARS AN EFFORT TO OBTAIN AN
EXCESS OF "LEVERAGE," WHICH COULD EVEN BE REGARDED AS "BLACK-
MAIL," AND THAT THE TREATY IS BECOMING SO CONDITIONED ON ONE
SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC THAT IT "RUNS THE RISK OF SUFFOCATING BEFORE
BEING BORN." ORTEGA CLAIMS THAT SENATOR HUMPHREY WAS EXTREMELY
ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE PROCESS UNDER WAY IN SPAIN WHEN HE VISITED
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PAGE 02 MADRID 07695 080806Z

THE SPANISH EMBASSY DURING THE KING'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON LAST

SPRING. ORTEGA ALSO CLAIMS THAT ON THAT OCCASION, HUMPHREY PLACED GREAT EMPHASIS ON HIS PERSONAL OPINION THAT THE SPANISH POLITICAL PROCESS SHOULD BE "SLOW, MEASURED, AND TRANQUIL." HE GOES ON TO REPORT THAT SENATOR HUMPHREY'S OFFICE HAS INDICATED THAT FOR THE MOMENT ALL THAT IS INVOLVED IS "SIMPLY A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION TO THE EXECUTIVE, NOT AN INVESTIGATION," AND THAT THE SENATOR'S OFFICE "DOUBTS THAT IT WILL HAVE ANY EFFECT ON THE TREATY."

3. THE ARTICLE IS FILLED WITH ORTEGA'S USUAL ASSORTMENT OF HALF-BAKED INFORMATION, INCLUDING A SHARP DIG AT THIS EMBASSY FOR CAUSING THE SPANISH POLITICAL OPPOSITION HEADACHES BY ITS PARTIALITY. (HE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN TALKING TO CALVO SERER, VIDAL AND TAMAMES IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON.)

4. IN ANY EVENT, THE HUMPHREY REQUEST--AND THUS ALSO THE EXISTENCE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROVISIONS OF THE NEW LEGISLATION--IS NOW ON THE PUBLIC RECORD IN SPAIN.
EATON

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